

Arden Cogar, Sr.

Arden Cogar, Sr., is known not only for his vision in wood typing and quality practices, but also as a world champion lumberjack.



He has dedicated his professional career to the logging industry. He developed methods to segregate logs into quality units — veneer, mill logs, tie logs, pulp and other varieties — in the woods long before they were practiced at mill sites.

He and his wife, Carol, have operated Arden Cogar Logging for many years. The company is well known throughout the industry for its consistent production and environmentally sound practices.

His reputation and marketing expertise have earned him the trust of many landowners. They have consistently found it better to sell timber to him for a percentage of the realized price than to another logger.

Cogar has also earned much respect as a regional and world-class lumberjacking champion. He established more than 50 World records over several decades of competition, and was once known as the champion ax man of the World.

Over the years, Cogar has set 55 world records in several lumberjacking sports. Many of the records he established in the 1970s still stand, including: times for chopping horizontal 8-inch and 12-inch round yellow poplar, vertical chopping an 8-inch and 10-inch yellow poplar, 10-inch white pine, 8-inch and 10-inch aspen, and a 12-inch round red pine. He also excelled at felling trees to drive stakes, ax throwing for accuracy and chain sawing. He teamed with his brother, Jack, as a crosscut sawing team.

He organized the Webster County Woodchopping Contest, one of the largest and most successful such competitions in the nation. It quickly gained international status because of the many competitors who wanted to challenge Cogar. The event now hosts competitors from around the United States, Canada, England, Spain, New Zealand and Australia.

He has continued to teach others the sport of lumberjacking. Many of his former students have become state and regional champions. His son, Arden, and nephew, Paul, have also become world champions. In June 2000, he managed a team that performed for the International Olympic Committee trying to give the sport Olympic status in 2008.

Earning regional and international acclaim in many forestry areas, Cogar has brought great honor to his home state.